



Media Contact:

Greg Risling
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
GRisling@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

April 11, 2014

Los Angeles Grocer Sentenced in EBT Fraud Case

A South Los Angeles grocer paid more than \$190,000 in restitution today as part of his sentence for fraudulently using EBT cards, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Curtis Rappe sentenced Sabino Reynoso Cedano, 62, to two years probation and ordered him to perform 240 hours of community service. Cedano also turned over a check for \$192,199 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of restitution in the case.

Last June, Cedano pleaded no contest to one count of food and nutrition benefits fraud. Deputy District Attorney Bill Clark said the defendant owned two small grocery stores and was illegally using Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards.

Cedano bought the cards from welfare recipients at a cut rate, then used the cards to purchase items, such as chips and sodas, from other markets to stock his shelves and resell them at higher prices, the prosecutor said. Cedano admitted he had been buying groceries for his stores, using this scheme, for a year.

The cards are issued to those who apply for aid through the Los Angeles County Department of Social Services (DPSS) and the amount placed on the cards is to be used only by the recipient to buy food. They are not to be sold or used by anyone other than the recipient.

The case was investigated by the Public Assistance Crime Enforcement Unit of the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

#

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted 73,194 felony defendants and 113,854 misdemeanor defendants.

